

FOUR SQUARE WORLD

MAR 1975

ADVANCE

ARCH, 1975



The View From Hong Kong



MINI-MEMOS:

Dr. Vincent R. Bird attended the N.A.E. Briefing Conference in Washington D.C., meeting with other evangelical leaders from across the nation, to be briefed on government programs and the penetration of Christianity in Washington life.

Midwest District S.A.L.T. Talks II gathered 130 youth and their pastors near North Platte, Nebraska for two and one-half days of ministry, teaching, and training.

S.C.A.T. — the South Central Action Team, comprised of youth from West Texas, recently assisted the Big Spring pioneer church in a special weekend of work projects, evangelistic endeavors and church ministries . . . **National Association of Evangelicals** have set April 8-10 for their 38th annual convention, in Los Angeles.

Kimberly Pierce, 14, of Dixon, Il., was one of the 29 youth from the greater Rockford area to receive the honor of *Young American*. Judged on leadership, scholarship, civic involvement, extra-curricular activities and contributions to their community, Kim, an active member of the Dixon Foursquare Church, was the youngest of the group to be chosen and was cited for "putting 100 percent effort into whatever she does."

Dr. Don McGregor, **Dr. William Cochrane** and **Rev. Gary Curtis** recently traveled to Chicago to attend the convention of the American Association of Bible College, in which L.I.F.E. has applicant status.

. . . **Dr. William Mouer** recently represented the Foursquare Church at the Armed Forces Chaplain's Board Conference at Ft. Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.

Present with the Lord . . .

Dorothy Chenoweth . . . Evelyn E. Gilley . . . Carolyn Fizzell Holley . . . Bernice Saunders . . . Cora M. Shipp . . . Arthur F. Thompson . . . Ann E. Weilepp . . . William Wildman . . . Patricia (Correll) Parrish.

50 YEARS AGO . . . (excerpts from writing of Aimee Semple McPherson, concerning the beginning of L.I.F.E. Bible College)

Some things were different —

"The New School Building Statement, March 31, 1925, shows that the sum of \$11,000.00 has been expended for architects, excavation, removal of houses, clearing of land, building of retaining walls, permits and miscellaneous expenses . . ."

Some things were the same —

"One could not be long in the midst of these precious young people without feeling that His presence had left an impression on their lives that could never be lost. One hears a great deal today about the 'younger generation' — mostly in disfavor. I wonder if it is not because they have not seen the 'younger generation' as they live a life as God intended in daily companionship with Jesus. Dr. Frank C. Thompson, instructor in the school, in speaking of it says: 'In lecturing to the classes, I can truthfully say that I never saw a company of young people who seemed to be so continually hungry for the deeper Bible truths as they are. It is a great pleasure for me to speak to them, for they eagerly drink in the message and are always anxious for more.

"When they go into the world they will carry with them the spiritual impress of the touch they have received here. Their happy type of Christian experience will make them radiant for the Master in a world full of darkness and sin."

ADVANCE

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President, Rolf K. McPherson
Editor, Eloise Clarno
Editorial Consultant, Wilbur Waldron, Jr.
Contributors: H.W. Clark, D.J. Ballinger, L.T. Charter, R.H. Hicks, S.O. Westbrook, G.C. Burris, N.M. Van Cleave, P.E. Jones, F.H. Wymore, V.F. Gardner.

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ORDAINED

Seventy-five candidates for ordination with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel were presented to Dr. Rolf K. McPherson after his address to these candidates and the convention.

These men and women received the laying on of hands, as they were set apart for the ministry during this Sunday-afternoon service.

MINISTRIES HONORED

Joining the ranks of the more than 600 Foursquare ministers who had previously been honored for 25 years of ministry to their church, were 44 more who were approved to receive their 25-year pins during the convention presentation.

This awarding, conducted by **Dr. M.E. Nicholls**, General Supervisor, brought to 691 the number of ministers who have been thus honored since this program's inception in 1956.

UFW — "Chosen Vessels" was the central theme of the United Foursquare Women's Shepherdess Luncheon, which was attended by more than 1500 beautifully gowned women from throughout the United States and Canada.

This annual event, to honor the "Shepherdesses" — lady ministers — was this year held in the Hollywood Palladium. Highlight of the event was the original drama, by **Gladys Johnson**, entitled "Streams of the Spirit." Depicted was the richness of the ministry of Biblical and modern women as they are used of the Spirit to draw forth water to minister to a thirsty world.

Praises to the Good Shepherd filled the Palladium Ballroom during the slide presentation of the Ecuadorian Houses of Happiness children's home, as women were able to view the effects of their sponsorship program.

Vice President, **Kathie Loggins**, presented special musicians **JoAnn Gordon**, soloist from Dallas, Texas, and a musical group lead by **Melba Martin**, which set the pace for the day.



CFM — The Council of Foursquare Men honored retiring president, **Karl Williams** in its day-long program. As Mr. Williams passed the gavel to newly elected president, **Jack Saffell**, Saffell challenged the several hundred men in attendance with the reminder that just as a man needs a pastor, the pastor also needs the support of the men in his church.

With a view for the future, plans were presented for a new national laymen's radio program — a project which was received with enthusiastic rejoicing.

Homeland news reports by District Presidents were further reason for rejoicing and praise, as were the world-wide mission ministries which were shared by missionaries **Phil Starr**, **Harold Curtis**, **Ron Fordyce**, **Ron Williams** and **Sam Oppenheim**, and reporting for the "missionary builders" was **Karl Williams**.

CHILDREN FEATURED

Hundreds of children gathered Saturday night to learn that "*Happiness is Knowing Jesus*" — the theme of the gigantic children's rally which drew participants from across the southland.

Bob and Wanda Moon with their **Miracle Player** puppets, from Louisiana, ministered to bring to life Bible stories.

Mr. Happy Face greeted the children and showed Jesus' love.

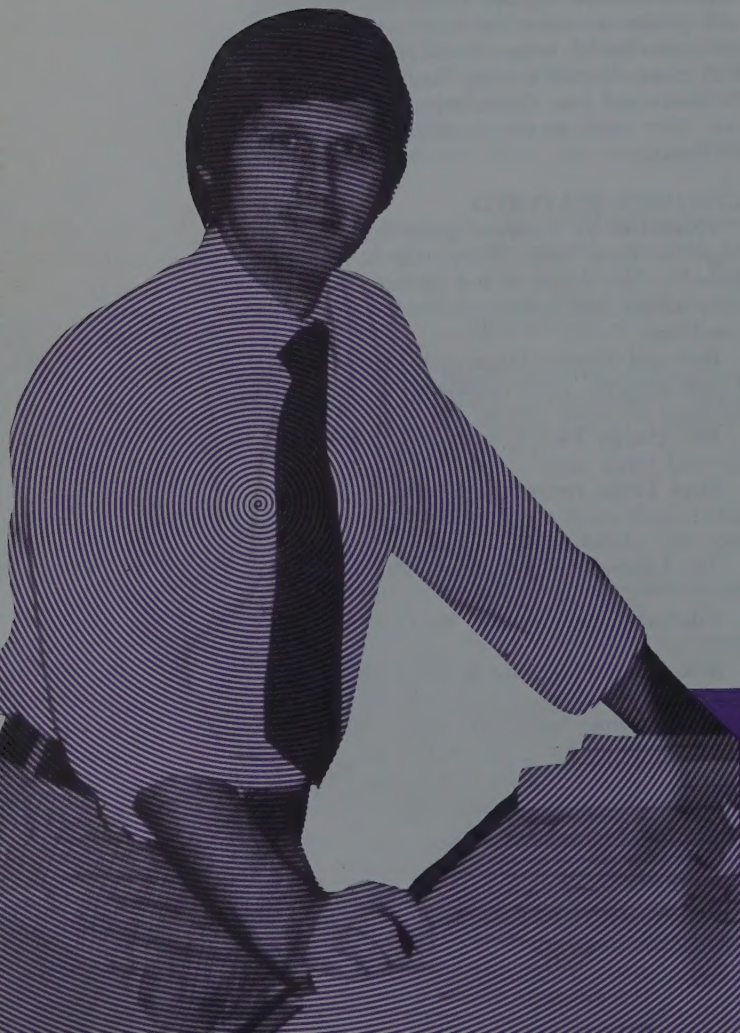
Miss Linda reminded all that children of other lands need to know how to be happy, too, and related missionary ministries.

The **Lakewood, California children's choir**, directed by **Norma Faulkner**, inspired hearts.

Kimberly Wallis, age 5, sang praise to the Lord.

Miss Mary Lou, rally coordinator, brought **Tommy**, the singing puppet, and as the others, did more than entertain. Each dramatized presentation shared Jesus and His love to those present, and resulted in many responding to receive and serve Him.





I left the hospital shaken and scared, wondering if I might soon be a widow. Or, if Don would have to live out his life as a cripple. I didn't relish either," recalls Carolyn Stenson, a young Canadian mother.

A house divided against itself cannot long endure. Nor can a human body which is producing antibodies toxic to its own cells. Five specialists had met Don and Carolyn at the hospital, including the finest neurosurgeon in the city. Their prognosis was devastating. Myolitis! The disease deteriorates the insulating sheath covering nerve fibers, causing confusion of sensation with loss of motor control. A spinal tap revealed that a virus infection was complicating the situation, for the antibodies which the body produced to fight the virus were also fighting the healthy tissue of the central nervous system. His body was at war against itself!

"We're going to be late again!"

One Sunday morning on their way to church Don had just expressed his exasperation, when the couple happened to drive past the Kingsway Foursquare Church. "Why don't we turn in here," his wife Carolyn suggested. "At least we won't be late at this church." They did so, and the atmosphere of worship and fellowship so refreshed them that God witnessed to their hearts this was the place He wanted them to call home.

Dedicated and vigorous, Don and Carolyn soon assumed responsibility for a young adult class and were singing in the choir. Don actively ministered with the Royal Heirs singing group, and with the *Living Letters* radio choir. What time was left was consumed by obligations on the church council and on the board of directors of a senior citizen's home.

Why did this brutal illness have to strike them now? Don had sacrificed a lot to finish the university, and to establish himself as a development planner with the Municipality of Burnaby in British Columbia. Their lives had always centered actively around the church.

But after being off work for three weeks

PEO

Do

with what he thought was a bad case of flu, Don returned to the office only to find that his lower limbs could hardly move. There was so little sensation in his feet that a needle went into the muscle as painlessly as into a pin cushion.

Don struggled to find God's will in the situation: "We now had a decision to make. The doctor said I needed total rest for two months, and that I would have to curb my activities as I recuperated. Those two months of rest gave me time to re-evaluate. After years in the university, followed by the arrival of two daughters, we were struggling to catch up. My job then didn't pay exceptionally well. Should I give up the extra at-home work which supplemented our income? Would I be able to find a less taxing job which paid more money? To what extent would I have to curtail my church activities?

"The virus had to first be arrested in order for antibodies to stop being produced. Then tissue would regenerate to a greater or lesser extent, but any faculties which had not returned within two years would be permanently destroyed. My level of sensation had then come to just below the rib cage. That portion of the spinal column affecting the lower part of the body had been thoroughly deteriorated. I could not shake the memory of multiple sclerosis which had crippled my sister. These were days of sobering thoughts."

Carolyn had no easy answers: "I very definitely wanted Don to slow down. It looked like the natural way out was to quit our church activities. But on the other hand we acknowledged God's calling and had set our course in the direction of ministry to the body of Christ.

"One evening our pastor spoke about the need to make our lives count now, for time is short. He seemed to emphasize that now — today — was to be considered. Not that we earned our money now so when we retired we could be more committed. Don was still recuperating. When I came home to tell him this, we felt it might be a part of our answer.

"God was letting me sort out priorities in my life, though I didn't see His answers yet. It didn't seem to be the time to say, 'Now, Lord, you really did mess things up. You didn't give us the strength to carry through, so I guess I'm going to have to quit serving you.' That would be the wrong attitude, obviously.

"We were trying to build up equity in our home and develop a financial base, so the decision whether to give up the extra job or the lay ministry was a difficult one. But if we had the kind of faith that we professed then this was the time to put it to the test. A tremendous peace flooded over us when we finally came to the decision to put God's work first and let Him take care of the circumstances."

As had not often happened in their marriage, Don and Carolyn grasped hands and prayed, "Father, you're not going to fail to honor your promises if we claim them. Here we are, Lord Jesus."

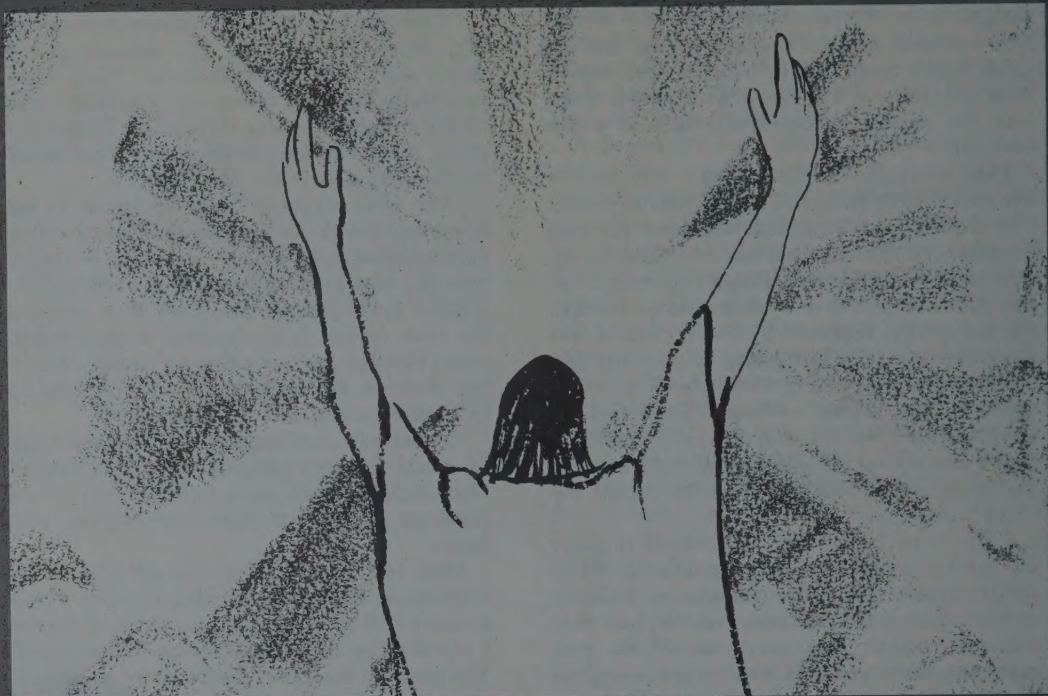
Don felt God's Spirit immediately. "The morning after praying together I returned back to work full time. During the course of the day I learned the assistant director had resigned. The position was open. Department leaders approached me, inviting me to apply for that position. No one could have anticipated such a turn of events. And it came immediately after our prayer and commitment of priorities. The additional income which came with the advancement more than compensated for the extra work I had been doing in the evenings." As the Assistant Director of Current Planning, Don's Christian influence to the seventeen professional workers under him is invaluable.

"The Lord allowed us this experience together to achieve a greater openness and closeness in our marriage. It has also cemented for us a faith in His ability to provide.

"Physically, I am about 18 months into the two-year recovery period the doctors gave me. When I overwork toward the end of the week I feel some discomfort and clumsiness, but I know full health will return in time. God has never failed to honor those who put their full trust in the promises of His Word."



tenson: Attack From Within



MARCH FORUM:

Three panelists discuss with ADVANCE

When the Christian Meets Death

What should be the Christian view of death?

Donna Winsor, Administrative Assistant, Angelus Temple: Mostly I associate death with other people. When I was a nurse, I thought of patients dying — always others. We want to associate with life; to stand away from death. It is always "them."

But, Jesus was very matter of fact about death. He signified Peter's death, but not as an emotional item. Jesus understood the full significance of it, and considered it very naturally.

Mary Robertson, Angelus Temple member: It is a blessing to watch some of the elderly at a funeral. One would think, in the natural, that they could fear, "I may be next." But, they sit with a look of glory — as if they were considering, "This one has something better, and I'll have it, too, soon!" They are rejoicing! Maybe the reason we are so emotionally unprepared is because we have not read the Scriptures to understand it.

Guy P. Duffield, Instructor, LIFE Bible College: Paul said "*the time of my departure is at hand.*" "Departure" is a nautical expression which refers to the loosening of a great ocean liner from the wharf. When all are on board, and every detail is cared for, the captain boards with the papers. The whistle blows, and the moorings are cut. The ship makes its way out of the harbor, across the ocean to a whole new horizon and country.

One of the most beautiful pictures of death is Jesus' reference in John 11. He said Lazarus was sleeping. Nothing is less feared than sleep. It is an experience often sought; it is rejuvenating. We awaken with new strength, new ambition.

If death is victorious, should we feel guilt at our sorrow?

Winsor: We pretend, or "play Christian" often when we are really sorrowing. We pretend we think it is wonderful he is spending his first Christmas with the Lord. In reality, we may not understand, or even be angry.

SINO-EVANGELISM:

Hong Kong Believers

A ping pong ball, bouncing back and forth.
How could God use this?

Since 1949, when the Communist regime took power in the People's Republic of China, a curtain of bamboo has risen higher and higher around this nation. Then that tiny, insignificant ping pong ball bounced through this curtain to allow entrance for the western world.

The fertile yellow soil which coats the plains of the north of China is not the only soil ready for planting, seeding and reaping. The soil of the hearts of the yellow-skinned people — 793 million of them — who live in China is also being tilled by current cultural change and increasing outside influence.

Situated at the base of China is the tiny British Crown Colony of Hong Kong — 365 miles of land inhabited by four million people. Since the pre-war beginnings of the Foursquare Church in Hong Kong, with Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Lee, China has been in view. When World War II made it impossible for the Lees to remain in this tiny colony, they retreated to China. When peace was declared and they returned to Hong Kong, a handful of Christians remained. Together they began again. Three years later the church was again established, a Christian day school begun, and the first building erected.

Through the years the schools have provided thousands of Chinese children with the best educational advantages, and with a positive Christian education and witness. With the four day schools, now schooling 1,300 students, have also come the five churches and meeting places, to which God is sending revival in 1975.

Foursquare Missionary Supervisor in Hong Kong, Rev. Ron Williams, reports God at work now, "It is harvest time in Hong Kong, but there still remains many who have not heard.

Our churches are the largest they have ever been, and the spirit of evangelism is vibrant. But, God seems to be preparing us for something even more.

"In the past years He has given us the great field of the schools. Here many have come to Christ. In one month this past fall, 300 professed Christ.

"The Macau orphanage has 42 children. In recent years the number of refugees coming to Macau has decreased, and therefore the need is not as great. While those remain who are without parents or home, there is also the ministry of day care for hundreds of children. We are aware that God may be giving us an increased ministry there — really a changing ministry.

"Mr. Lao Lao Hang, who, with his wife, directs the orphanage, has felt God's call to pastoral ministry. He wants to train, but Macau is 40 miles from Hong Kong. God has impressed us with the TEE (Theological Education by Extension) program and we see this as a means for him, and others there, to train. Mr. Lao is currently the lay pastor of the Macau church, which meets at the orphanage."

In 1973 God sent Rev. and Mrs. Gary Loop to Hong Kong, and is giving them a fruitful ministry within the church, district, and the schools.

The development of the national church, with its council and leadership, and the strong indigenous churches which are already established, are the foundation for an increasing challenge. Revival has come; the seed is bearing; it's increase time.

And, as God brings about this increase, He is also raising the sights of these Hong Kong Christians to include their neighboring giant, China.

"God burdened my heart for the millions just 22 miles north of our home in Hong Kong.



the Upward Bounce

One of every four persons in the world is Chinese. We believe our Colony will be a launching pad for entrance there. As God always does, He is now working at all ends to bring about His good plan. We're excited!

"God confirmed His burden for China with us this past summer. We had not shared this vision with our fellow Christians there, but we realized that if we were to have a part in reaching that nation, we needed trained workers. In our summer camp, God called 19 of our youth to the ministry. This had never happened before. But, equally as exciting to us, was that three of these 19 have been burdened to reach China.

"Too, we had not shared with these youth our goals for 1975, one of which is the establishment of a school to train men and women for pastoral ministry. God confirmed this to our hearts, too, when He called these youth. His timing and His program always balance!"

Rev. Williams shares his view of China in stating, "Several things are presently happening in China which make me feel that evangelism there is expedient. First, under the present regime there is a simplification of the Chinese language — a unity of language. The many dialects in the past have caused a tremendous linguistical split.

"Too, there has been the oppression of Confucious and Lompao teachings of stratus and status. These two men were strong conservatives, but Chinese tradition is breaking down, leaving a vacuum.

"Third, China is opening its doors economically. Two of the largest food companies in the United States have been invited to China. Where westerners go, western thought goes.

"Another reason: In 1949, 20% of the people were educated; today over 80% are. With

education comes the question, 'Why?'

"And last, the political situation in China is changing. There is the extreme left and the extreme right. China's two leading politicians are not strong physically, and it is difficult to find a 'number-three man.' If there is a power play, which might well happen, there will be confusion. The Gospel brings unity."

Excitedly, Rev. Williams continues, "When we consider all of this, we can just rejoice! God has established His church in Hong Kong. He is currently sweeping it with a spirit of evangelism and giving it a strong direction to train for ministries. Put that together with the opportunity of an opening border behind which one quarter of the world's population has been shielded for 25 years. Then, add the element of a common language and culture, and you have the potential for one of the world's greatest harvests.

"When the door opens, Hong Kong Christians must be ready to move through. This is our concern and we feel God's direction. This means prayer, planning, and training.

"We do believe China will open because of two promises. Jesus said the Gospel must be preached to all generations. Too, His Word declares that people of all kindred and tribes will stand before the throne and worship God. Weigh these promises with the generation of Chinese oppression of Christianity. To me, this is very, very strong!

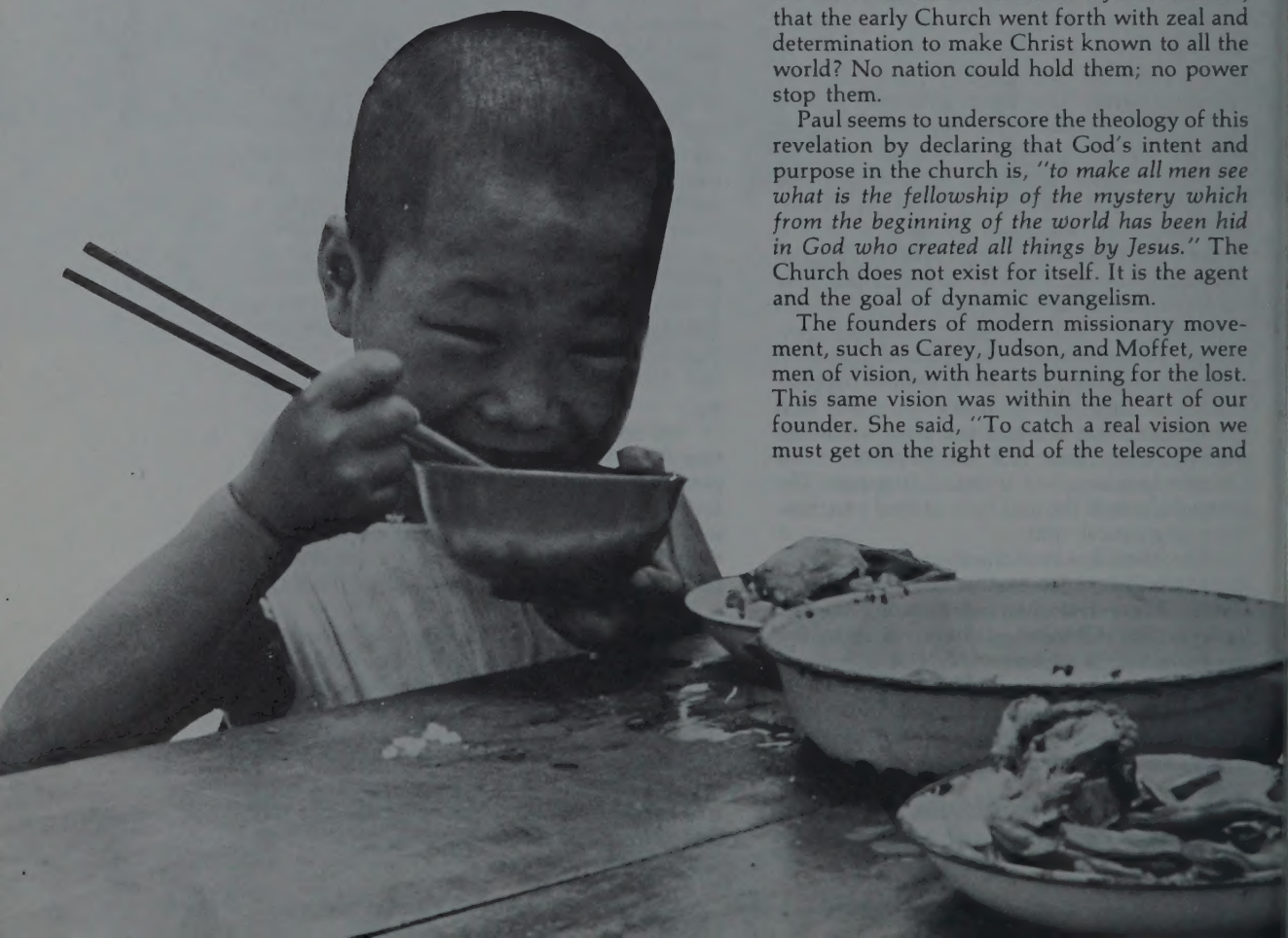
"Our strategy may not be a conventional variety; God must guide us in this. But, we do believe God will 'plant' individuals as seeds inside China — kernels which will remain in good soil. If the door again closes, as has happened with Communistic areas in the past, the seed can still bring forth. We can trust God to bring the increase. We must watch for the opening and be ready to do the 'seeding.' "

From the Keynote Address of Donald McGregor, to the International Foursquare Church Convention

The scene was one filled with deep love and compassion. Jesus and His disciples were proceeding to the Garden of Gethsemane. He had expressed His love and care to the disciples, and had shown them that the Holy Spirit would come to lead and guide them. The account begins with Jesus lifting His face toward heaven and praying,

CONVENTION KEYNOTE:

That They Might Know Thee



"Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent" (John 17:1-3).

In this prayer, our Lord clearly establishes the mission of the Church as inseparable from the redemptive purposes of God.

Old Testament history is replete with the record of preachers and prophets with burning hearts, who spoke of God's redemption for all men of all nations.

The Psalms are filled with songs declaring that God's salvation would reach *"to the ends of the earth,"* that *"all nations"* would call Him blessed.

The Prophet Isaiah spoke of God's house being a house of prayer for *"all people."*

Haggai declared that He would be the *"desire of all nations."*

Joel put the prophetic telescope to his eye, and announced that *"whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord should be saved."* Is it any wonder, with these promises, and with the direct command of the Lord Jesus Himself, that the early Church went forth with zeal and determination to make Christ known to all the world? No nation could hold them; no power stop them.

Paul seems to underscore the theology of this revelation by declaring that God's intent and purpose in the church is, *"to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God who created all things by Jesus."* The Church does not exist for itself. It is the agent and the goal of dynamic evangelism.

The founders of modern missionary movement, such as Carey, Judson, and Moffet, were men of vision, with hearts burning for the lost. This same vision was within the heart of our founder. She said, *"To catch a real vision we must get on the right end of the telescope and*

let Jesus show us fields ripe unto harvest." It was out of this burden and vision that Angelus Temple was raised up as a base from which would be launched efforts of evangelism to reach the far corners of the globe.

The main concern of the Church is to be involved with unbelievers in a redemptive way. And the purpose of our gathering at this convention should include a careful evaluation of our growth and a reaffirming of our responsibility and commitment to reach the lost at any cost.

THE GROWING DIMENSION

By 1975 the world's population will reach four billion. While world leaders despair from shortage of food and natural resources, it is not an hour of gloom for the church. It simply means our task is greater; the harvest is increasing, and we must enlarge our vision. Peter reminds, "*God is not willing that any should perish . . .*" (II Peter 3:9).

Some might ask, "Is this a time to talk of growth when the world faces inflation, mass starvation, political strife and wars?" Still others question, "Is this the time to talk of starting new churches, when building costs are so high, and the price of land almost prohibitive?" Or, "Is this an hour for expansion of the church world-wide by entering new nations?" The answer is, "Yes!"

With God there are no shortages, nor is His purpose limited. There are no walls big enough to hold back God's message. Where traditional methods fail God designs new methods.

A fresh new breeze of spiritual life is blowing across the world. For some it comes in the form of "renewal"; for the youth it is a new love for the Lord Jesus; for others it is a charismatic awakening. But, whatever title men use to describe what is happening in the church, one thing is certain; God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh. He is causing rivers to spring up in desert places.

This is the day of the whitened harvest. People are turning to Christ in increasing numbers. A safe estimate is that throughout the world, nearly 55,000 people daily confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. More than 200 new churches are being established every day.

Professor Herbert Kane, former missionary to China, said, "For the first time since Pentecost it is now possible to speak responsibly of completing the task of world evangelism in a single generation."

When William Carey stood before the Church of England unburdening his heart for India, the response was, "We have very little money." In 1872, Carey preached his famous sermon in which he coined the familiar phrase, "*Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.*"

Missionary Statesman, Donald McGavran, says, "We live in the midst of the most responsive population ever seen on earth. Great turnings to Christ are possible. We do not do well to be reducing our missionary commitment; we should be quadrupling it." When Jesus saw the multitudes about Him, He said to his disciples, "*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers . . .*"

THE URGENCY OF OUR MISSION

Nearly two-thirds of the world have yet to be evangelized. Jesus made it very clear that eternal life comes only to those who believe in the Father through the Son. Immediately after Pentecost, Peter spoke to the religious leaders, declaring, "*neither is there salvation in any other . . .*"

George W. Peters gives this searching response regarding the urgency of our mission, "Any church which fails to give priority to winning lost men to God deprives herself of the most intimate relationship with her Lord, and fails to identify herself with the primary purpose of God." The mission of the Church is to give every person in the world the opportunity to say, "Yes," to Jesus.

With church buildings on every corner, there may be some hesitancy to respond to the call to plant new churches or expand to new frontiers. But every 30 years there is a new generation of people to be evangelized. There is a new generation of Americans now to be reached for Jesus.

The devil has three tools to use to defeat any congregation of believers. First, to get them to take their eyes away from the whitened harvest, and to focus their vision on less eternal matters.

Second, to direct all their church's attention to internal problems. A protecting and securing philosophy can creep into a congregation or church movement after a period of growth and revival — the temptation to want to only "hold on" to the gains of the past.

Third, the devil would try to afflict the church with theological fatigue, which in the end results in leadership fatigue.

If the church is to grow and meet the urgent challenge before it, it must see itself as a penetrating force in the community; as light penetrating the darkness; as salt penetrating to preserve and heal.

Anyone who has ever learned to ride a bicycle knows that in order to maintain balance, he must also maintain a forward motion. To slow down, or to stop, means to fall. The Christian Church is not geared for standing still. It must keep moving forward, lest it fall into the ecclesiastical scrap-pile. The prayer of our heart must be "*that all men might know thee.*"



LAUSANNE CONGRESS ON EVANGELIZATION:

What did the congress say to me?

What did the Congress say to us as a church movement?



Harold W. Jefferies

It would be impossible to compress the story of Lausanne. Of the 2700 participants from 150 nations, I felt fortunate to be among those 573 ministers who received invitations to this 10-day congress.

Every facet of world evangelism was covered. The theme, "Let the Earth Hear His Voice" was translated into 6 languages on the walls of the convention center, and through computer aid, every speaker was simultaneously interpreted into 7 languages.

We heard the great evangelical theologians from around the world, and we heard from every continent what God is doing through the power of His Spirit, and the preaching of the Word.

We discovered the ministry of the gospel and evangelism behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains, on the highlands of Nepal, Afganistan, Pakistan, India, Asia; in South America and Africa, and in the islands, as well as in our own western world.

The reports of God's miracles of grace were unbelievable to many. Again and again, after reports were given, someone would say, "I just can't believe what is taking place in the world today." God is moving in areas that we have never heard of. Evangelism is very much alive.

We heard of the Roman Catholic Church — of the conversions, changes, and baptisms with the Spirit among leaders.

It was my personal privilege to minister in an evangelical church in Rome, and to be introduced to the phenomena that is taking place there. Hundreds came to accept Christ and be baptized with the Holy Spirit. On one occasion a priest who could not speak English was baptized with the Spirit and the tongue which the Spirit gave to him was English. How beautifully he lifted up and glorified Jesus Christ!

We heard what God was doing among the ecumenical leaders of the World Council of Churches. Representatives from this church group attended the congress, and we learned that these men were calling for greater emphasis on orthodox Biblical theological teaching. They are reevaluating the great truths of the Scripture as we evangelicals believe them.

We heard of the impact of the charismatic movement. In fact, the largest attended session of the congress was in relation to the charismatic. The men selected to give the conclusions from the small discussion segments recognized that the charismatic movement must be reckoned with.

There is promise in that God is at work in unprecedented ways and places.

Asia, for example, is becoming the greatest and most receptive field in the world for evangelism.

In Korea the evangelical church is increasing at a rate four times faster than the population!

In parts of India Christians now form a majority of the population, and are bringing a degree of civil righteousness to the nation. On one occasion over 1,000 Christian believers were baptized in water in one day.

More decisions were recorded for Christ last year in Asia than in the last 20 years there.

Evangelical churches in Asia have sent 3,000 missionaries — their own people — to Asian nations. By the end of 1974, from India alone, 200 more evangelical missionaries will be sent to the Asian countries. Their goal by 2,000 AD is to witness to *every* Asian — not just every nation or tribe.

There's New Guinea — a land where the gospel was virtually unknown before the present generation. In some areas today a large percentage of the population profess faith in Jesus Christ.

Latin American response is unprecedented, in the numbers who have received Christ.

There's the promise of Africa, with 300 million souls below the Saharan Desert. In those small African countries, over 20 percent of the population are baptized believers. At this rate if the Lord tarries, by the year 2000, 80 percent of Africa will be Christian.

Then there are the dangers.

Europe and the United States are facing the crossroads of decision. There is a move of evangelism across America and Canada, and in Europe, but these countries are facing many obstacles and crises. Dangers which lay ahead were pointed out to us.

First, *inflation*, which is now world-wide. *Famine*, which is beyond our ability to conceive. And the *possibility of revolution*.

Dr. Billy Graham stated that by 1980, according to a Lebanese banker, two-thirds of the world's wealth will be in the hands of the Arab nations — the middle east nations.

Recently, CBS aired the statement that by 1985, just 11 years away, the wealth of the Arab nations will be 1-trillion, 200-billion dollars. This astronomical wealth is a potential weapon that could control the world. If the wealth and industry of the world is controlled by non-Christian nations, what then is to become of our world missionary outreach? The answer is obvious.

Dr. Harold W. Jefferies, representative-at-large, outlined the recent World Congress on Evangelism in Lausanne, Switzerland, to LIFE Bible College students. We have borrowed his text to share with our readers.

What can the Congress say to you, personally?

The World Congress presented to me a new consciousness of over 2-billion, 700-million souls who have never heard the name of Jesus. It spoke to me of the short time we have to bring the gospel to all people.

Here we were at the Congress, 27,000 of us, representing so many evangelical churches, from so many nations, and tribal and language groups — gathered to worship, pray and plan for world evangelization, to reach 2,700,000 people who do not know Christ.

I went to my room, and asked myself and God, "How can this be accomplished?" The Holy Spirit said to me, "Together, we will accomplish My eternal purpose; *together*."

This Congress said to me, and to our church movement — and to every person who names the name of Jesus Christ, "*We need a vision to see the lostness of the world; the lostness of men!*"

We need faith to believe that God wills to use you and me; and all who know the Lord Jesus. He wants to use those in the third world who have come to Christ. We need faith to believe that through all of us the job can be accomplished.

Then *we need the courage to act* — to place ourselves at His disposal, and move with the stream of the Holy Spirit. He is flowing out, touching all places, tribes, nations and peoples.

We need a heart to care. This is one of the greatest needs — a forceful motivation in Christian experience.

Do we care that the lost are perishing? Before our eyes, in the world we touch, the lost are going into eternity without hope — without Christ.

God wants people who love people, just as Jesus loved people. He gave His life because He loved people — loved us.

We might ask, "What can I do? I'm not important. I have little influence. There is so little that I can do, and so much to be done!"

You can entreat God to allow you to *do enough to make a difference*.

In the entry to the Congress hall was a population computer system. The day the Congress opened the button was pushed to begin the calculating of the world population increase, moment by moment, day by day. This computer took into account the deaths and births of the world.

In the 10 days of the Congress, the world population had grown by 1,912,000 souls!

"Let the earth hear His voice!"

BEHIND EASTER:

Easter, the glorious celebration of life, is a feast claimed by Christians in honor of the Risen Christ. Yet, the Easter season is not simply a Christian story. It has a history as old and as rich in legend and tradition as the history of western civilization.

The first people to celebrate Easter were the pagan tribes of northern Europe. They held an annual spring festival in honor of Eostra, the goddess of light and spring. The celebration heralded the death of winter and the rebirth of life on earth with the coming of spring.

In the eighth century, the name Easter was transferred from the pagan festivals to the Christian religion. The celebration of the resurrection of Christ, which also was observed in the spring, became known as Easter.

Many of the old traditions associated with the spring festival from ancient times were transferred along with the name.

As the Christian Easter evolved from the Jewish Passover, the *paschal* lamb became a symbol of Christ. The Passover has commemorated the deliverance of the Hebrews from captivity in Egypt. The Christian mind saw a figurative connection between the bondage of Egypt and the bondage of death, between the exodus or escape and the resurrection.

The Easter bunny, now a fluffy little ornament for the holiday, once was an important symbol of abundant new life in the spring season.

Easter eggs? To the early Christians eggs seemed obvious symbols of Christ's resurrection, and they were considered holy and appropriate gifts at Eastertide. They often were stained a deep red to symbolize Christ's blood.

Easter cards originated about 1850 among the people of Northern Europe.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life."

Jesus Christ, John 11:25

The Bible

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Ghana Ministry Grows

The ministry of the **Nigerian** church in **Ghana** has begun with an outstanding move of God. The December crusade which opened the work in Accra, Ghana's capital, brought over 300 decisions for Christ, with many miraculous healings. A man, totally crippled with arthritis, was instantly healed. A young woman came to Jesus and was healed of an extreme case of ex-zema. The third night an alcoholic came to the services and he was completely delivered. Before leaving he testified, "I can't get over the change in my life! I can't understand what has happened to me."

The missionary pastor, Rev. Orebayo, recognizes the need to teach this man and the scores of other new believers, to establish them as mature Christians. Teaching sessions are being conducted, and already young believers are witnessing for Christ. Two of these visited 30 people one evening — those who had made decisions during the Crusade — and now all are attending the classes.

Plans exist for continued services and teaching sessions, special weekend emphases with Rev. Belobaba from Nigeria, as guest speaker, and a witnessing thrust at Eastertime, when Nigerian and Ghanain Christians will team together for this outreach. May will bring 10 days of special teaching and evangelism outreach.

Conventions Bring Rejoicing

The **Nigerian** convention attendance reached 3,000 on Convention Sunday. More than 150 came to the Lord that day. God challenged hearts to give sacrificially to establish the new work in Ghana. Believers drew their savings from the bank. Market women gave; business men sacrificed. As the week ended, the total of \$6,000 had been received, exactly doubling the target set by the national board.

The district conferences in the **Philippines** challenged believers to a deeper study of the Word of God through the TEE (Theological Education by Extension) program. Twelve potential TEE leaders were trained in 2 workshops in Cebu. The Manila-area classes have served as the pilot program for this nation, and have proven very successful, with increasing numbers of believers studying the Word. In spite of distances and geographic handicaps, TEE classes are being held on many islands. Missionaries there report that the initial results of TEE are TEErific!



Teaching to Win

The John Davies family in **Bogota, Colombia** are all involved with missionary ministry. Rev. Davies writes, "On Sunday morning we conduct three Sunday schools in the homes of believers. We leave the house with the family and a bench tied on top of the jeep. The first stop is a little restaurant where a lady, who was converted in our church, holds Sunday school for her neighborhood children. Mrs. Davies leads this.

"Stop number two is five miles further where teenagers, Debbie and Susan, assist a woman who holds classes in her living room. The remaining three of us drive another two miles to a home where three families meet for a class.

"As we finish, our two younger daughters, Naomi and Becky, and I retract our steps and pick up the family again.

"Several dozen attend these classes, and we believe God will use this to reach many more families."

Equipping believers for the work of the ministry is a vital part of missionary ministry. In **New Guinea** the Pidgin English school recently graduated 30 adults. Rev. Hughes writes, "It is always heart-stirring when we realize how few adults can read and write here. We not only teach them their ABC's, but also the Word of God. While enrolled, 28 of these had received Christ as Savior."

The Bible Institute in **Monterrey, Mexico** is realizing an increased attendance with students responding personally to the Word as they prepare.

The regional workers' conference in **Lagos, Nigeria** enrolled 340 persons, each anxious to prepare for more effective ministry.

The Institute classes in southern **Costa Rica** include student pastorates for those training for ministry. The seaport of Golfito is an example of this. A student couple commute weekends to minister there. Four student preaching trips were also included in this year's study.

Bible classes for children are conducted in the surrounding farms. Each week more than 250 children are ministered to in these areas where no church exists.

FIRST CHECK:

We Lift Our Hearts Rejoicing

(Several readers have shared their response to the December suggestion to write their first check in 1975 to missions. Rejoice with us.)

"I received back 200-fold over my first-fruit offering."

"The challenge to write my first check of 1975 to missions was quickened to my heart by the Lord. I really didn't have it to give, but felt so impressed to do so after reading the challenge.

"Two weeks later I received back 7-fold from a friend that had never given anything to me before like that. She wrote, 'We really don't know why we are doing this, only that He has told us to.' The Lord spoke to my heart that He was repaying the first check in 1975.

"The next two weeks I was out of work. But, God brought to me almost exactly the amount of money I would have made during that period — 200-fold from my check. Thank God for His blessings."

Another reader writes, "It seemed like a good idea when a friend read the article to me about writing my first check in 1975 for missions. The amount of my check was \$10.00, and it was above my regular offerings and tithe.

"What took place in the following brief weeks was tremendous. Within a week I had received \$70.00 — one check from a friend, and another, an unexpected insurance adjustment.

"It has been exciting to share this testimony. One lady had also accepted this challenge, and sent a first-check to sponsor a child for camp this coming summer — a home-missions gift.

"I am glad to have experienced God's direction and special provision."

The **Abilene, Kansas** Foursquare Church celebrated New Year's Eve with a Fellowship Feast Supper. As a part of this celebration Pastor Dixie Weese presented the challenge for members to write their first check in 1975 for missions. Those that responded gave \$61.00 over their regular faithful giving.

In the weeks which followed, God has honored and blessed the church in unusual ways, and has added two new families to this fellowship.

MULTIPLYING:

REJOICE! HALLELUJAH!

The ministry of Foursquare foreign missions, in 31 countries, during 1974 has resulted in:

150,443 converts

15,870 Holy Spirit baptisms

20,447 new members

The thousands of new converts intensified the need for Bible teaching and training, which has resulted in 14 brief institutes, 23 TEE Centers, 3 correspondence schools, and 41 Bible colleges. More than 7,000 campers attended 47 summer camps.

Foursquare missionaries and special workers now number 139, with 3,032 national ministers, serving in 2,857 churches and meeting places. Christian day schools number 21.

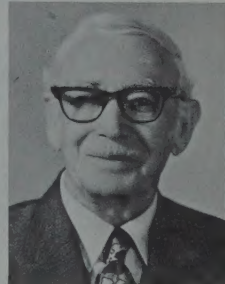
To God be the glory!

IN MEMORIAM:

Arthur F. Thompson, who with his wife, Evelyn, served as missionaries in the Philippine Islands and Korea for more than 18 years, went to be with the Lord on January 8. He was 83.

Under the Thompson's ministry the Davao, Mindanao, work was pioneered and established. In 1969 God led them to Taejon, Korea, to evangelize in the Christian day schools there.

Mrs. Thompson continues to minister on the staff at Angelus Temple.



I walked that lonely highway, and I
was all alone. But came that morning
call, and I hastened home.

Those precious arms now enfold me
and my friends are crowding 'bout;

I am snuggled in His presence,

No longer left without!

Don't grieve, my dear ones, as you
see that casket here. It is empty;

I am waiting for you to join me here.

I did so little for my Master, as

I trod on earthen floors.

Yet the greeting was so victorious

as He opened wide the doors.

He said, "Mine was the path you walked,
dear child, but I wanted you at home;
no longer suffering, grieving;

no longer all alone.

Maxine Correll



FIFTH SUNDAY:

MARCH 30, 1975 EASTER SUNDAY

DATELINE: Argentina. Revival is stirring this South American country, and churches are springing up. National workers are assuming a greater role in reaching their own nation before Jesus comes.

DATELINE: Ecuador. Eloy returned to his mountain village, high in the Andes above Guayaquil, after having received Christ as Savior. His city of 25,000 needed a pastor.

DATELINE: Nigeria. This African nation is experiencing a stir of God, and groups of believers are seeking someone to shepherd them. The Bible school is training workers, but at the same time, established pastors are reaching out for further training. National leaders around the world in Foursquare Churches are seeking bold plans and effective methods for developing a stronger church and individual ministry. They are asking for a team of qualified leaders to bring them instruction on church growth and development.

Leadership Conferences which bring these helps to national workers around the world are vital. Funds to finance such planning are needed.

Our commitment to evangelism includes a commitment to equip leadership for the "work of the ministry." Will you help?

Our goal: That by Easter Sunday, 1976, thousands more can celebrate His resurrection because effective ministries have reached them with the good news of Jesus' love.

Gifts earmarked for the special **National Leadership Conferences** may be channeled through your local church.

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